

What do you do when a child tells you about sexual abuse?

- DO Be supportive. "You did the right thing to tell me" or "I'm glad you told me."
- DON'T Make promises you cannot keep.
- DO Be truthful with the child. "I'm going to have to tell someone about this so we can try to keep you safe."
- DON'T Assume you know how the child feels about the alleged abuser. The child may love that person in spite of what has happened.
- DO Learn enough information to make a report to the hotline. Ask, "Has someone touched you in a way that makes you uncomfortable?"
- DON'T Ask for more details or elaboration. Leave that to the investigator.
- DO Tell the hotline who the alleged abuser is IF the child volunteered the information.
- DON'T Guess who the abuser might be or ask the child if a specific person touched him/her.
- DO Report facts and observations when you call the hotline.
- DON'T Report hunches or feelings.